

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 01491 291818Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 /058 W

----- 089241

R 291808Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556

SECDEF

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01491

STATE FOR EUR/NE

DEFENSE FOR IQA AND ODDR&E

BRUSSELS PASS USDEL MC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OCON, MILL, NATO. UK

SUBJ: AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS)

REF: TIMBERLAKE/MACDONALD TELECON 22 JANUARY 1976;

ACHILLES/MACDONALD TELECON 28 JANUARY 1976

1. IN PURSUING DISCRETELY THRUST OF TELECONS, WE CAN REAFFIRM THAT THE AWACS PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HOLD A VERY HIGH PRIORITY IN THE UK MOD REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AEW MISSION. IN THE RAF PRIORITY LIST THE AEW (AWACS) RANKS SECOND TO THE MRCA PROGRAM.

2. A YEAR AGO UK MOD COMPLETED ITS EVALUATION OF THE NIMROD E2C AND E1A PROGRAMS AND THE E3A AWACS WAS SELECTED AS ITS CHOICE PROVIDED IT WOULD BE BOUGHT BY NATO WHICH WOULD ENABLE MOD TO OVERCOME POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 01491 291818Z

INHERENT IN A SCUTTLING OF THE NIMROD PROGRAM. THE AEW

REQUIREMENT IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED ALSO BY THE ROYAL NAVY AND MEETS A VERY HIGH REQUIREMENT IN THE OVERALL UK MOD PRIORITY LIST. WITHOUT QUESTION AWACS CONTINUES TO RECEIVE SOLID BACKING IN THE UK MOD. AS A MATTER OF INTEREST YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT EVEN IN THE LATEST DEFENSE REVIEW, THE AEW (AWACQ) MONEY WAS NOT CONSIDERED FOR REDUCTION. SOMETHING IN EXCESS OF ABOUT 175 MILLION POUNDS IS ALLOCATED FOR THIS REQUIREMENT AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT FUNDING COULD GO TO AS HIGH AS 250 MILLION POUNDS. THE UK MOD HAS REPEATEDLY TOLD SENIOR US OSD AND AIR FORCE OFFICIALS THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT THE AWACS PROGRAM WITH LONG LEAD TIME MONEY (AND THEIR FAIR SHARE) OF PROCUREMENT MONEY. HOWEVER, AS THE BRITISH HAVE MADE CLEAR, THERE MUST BE AT LEAST ONE OTHER EUROPEAN NATO COUNTRY PARTICIPANT IN THE PROGRAM. PRIVATELY, THEY CONSIDER THE GERMANS AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE OTHER PARTICIPANT TO THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM. THE BRITISH ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THE GERMANS HAVE NOT HAD THE AEW REQUIREMENT ON THE FRONT BURNER AND HENCE FEEL A GREAT DEAL OF WORK MUST BE DONE IN BONN TO GET THE FRG OFF TOP DEAD CENTER.

3. IN SUMMARY, WE CAN RELY ON CONTINUING STRONG UK MOD SUPPORT FOR THE NATO AWACS PROGRAM AND WE BELIEVE THE BRITISH WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITH FUNDING A FAIR SHARE PROVIDED ONE OTHER NATO COUNTRY, IN ADDITION TO THE US, ENTERS THE OVERALL PROCUREMENT PROGRAM. ONCE THIS OBJECTIVE IS ACHIEVED, THE UK IS PREPARED TO EXPEND IN FULL THE 4 MILLION DOLLARS CONTRIBUTION DUE FROM MOD FOR THE LONG LEAD TIME ITEMS.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AVIATION, AWACS, WARNING SYSTEMS, MILITARY PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON01491
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760035-0357
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760110/aaaaaiey.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (AWACS)
TAGS: OCON, MILI, UK, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006